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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,121	02/23/2004	Alfred Geissler	0250-132	1654
616	7590	08/25/2005	EXAMINER	
THE MAXHAM FIRM 750 "B" STREET, SUITE 3100 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101			GATES, ERIC ANDREW	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3722	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/785,121

Applicant(s)

GEISSLER ET AL.

Examiner

Eric A. Gates

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/5/2004
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 203 03 147.4, filed on 26 February 2003.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because
 - a. In Figure 3, reference number 19 is used to designate what was designated as 22 in Figure 2.
 - b. In Figure 3, reference number 16 is used to designate what was designated 19 in Figure 22.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the

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remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 refers to "a fixing means", attempting to refer to the "a fixing means" of claim 1. However, as written, it is not possible to determine whether applicant is referring to the fixing means of claim 1 or some other fixing means. If applicant is referring to the fixing means of claim 1, the claim should be amended to say "said fixing means". For the purposes of this examination, the claim was interpreted as intending "said fixing means", in reference to the fixing means in claim 1.

4. A claim limitation will be interpreted to invoke 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, if it meets the following 3-prong analysis:

(A) the claim limitations must use the phrase "means for " or "step for ";

(B) the "means for " or "step for " must be modified by functional language;

and

(C) the phrase "means for " or "step for " must not be modified by sufficient structure, material or acts for achieving the specified function.

In claim 1 of the instant application, the references to the "clamping means" and "fixing means" meet the requirements of the above analysis and have been examined as such. In claim 4-10, sufficient structure is provided to the fixing means such that the invocation of 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, is revoked.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaneko (U.S. Patent 3,752,019).

6. Per claim 1, Kaneko discloses a workpiece seat comprising an elongated housing 8; a spindle 6 rotably supported in the housing 8, said spindle 6 having a working end; an electric direct drive (motor drive combination) for the spindle 6 comprising a rotor 12b fixed on the spindle 6 and a stator 12a fixed on the housing 8; a clamping means 2 provided at the working end of the spindle 6, said clamping means 2 being shaped and configured for fixing a bar-shaped workpiece in the spindle 6; a connection unit 15 provided at the rear part of the housing 8 for energy supply; and a

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fixing means 7 for fixing the spindle in the housing, said fixing means being formed as a compact part and arranged at the working end of the spindle 6.

7. Per claim 2, Kaneko discloses a front side spindle bearing arrangement 9.

8. Per claim 3, Kaneko discloses the fixing means 7 arranged on the front end of the spindle before the front-side spindle bearing arrangement 9.

9. Per claim 4, Kaneko discloses the fixing means 7 comprising at least one fixing element 7 at least partially surrounding the spindle 6, and directly acting on the peripheral surface of the spindle 6.

10. Per claim 5, Kaneko discloses the fixing element 7 arranged in the housing part 8 such that it can be moved by removing the bolt seen in Figure 1, or deformed by a driving force using a device such as a hammer.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 6-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Babuder (U.S. Patent 6,389,939) discloses a multiple-spindle bar machine that uses spindle bearings preloaded by fluid pressure to insure precise

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positioning of the spindles. Schuettel (U.S. Patent 6,272,956) discloses a workpiece holder that uses air pressure to tighten and loosen the chuck.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric A. Gates whose telephone number is 571-272-5498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00-4:30 & alt Fridays 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric A. Gates
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3722



EAG
15 August 2005



BOYER D. ASHLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER